

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555

• 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills, PA 15236 •

December 2015

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



POST OFFICERS

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RICHARD J. WOJNAR

Sr. Vice Commander
AL DI LEMBO

Jr. Vice Commander
DON ROTTMAN

Adjutant
LINDA WOJNAR

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
FRANK CAPUTO

Chaplin
BOB BLEICHNER

Judge Advocate
BOB HARTUNG

Sgt-At-Arms
RALPH CASCIELLO

Sgt-At-Arms
STAN TUMAS



Commander's Call

We're coming into some of the busiest holidays of the year, and while our families will be extremely busy, I just want to let everyone know that your Legion will be keeping its foot on the gas, implementing new changes that will take us into the new year. This past November proved to be another exciting month. The next time you visit the post take a moment to look at our new additions. We have added an electronic floor-mounted dart board, a machine that house "Games of Skill", a new wall-mounted high speed Internet-connected jukebox, and we are raffling off a snow blower – one of many pieces of equipment from West Jefferson Hills Lawn Center. One addition you cannot see is our new surveillance cameras for safety. Your post is without question on the move, and there are many people to thank, especially Russ Wilson, Corporation President, as his team spirited cooperation and tireless support and time commitment to the Post does not go unnoticed.



On Veteran's Day, Thomas Jefferson High School hosted an event that made all the local news stations. Mr. Christopher Sefcheck, Principal of Thomas Jefferson High School – West Jefferson Hills School District – was the host of the event. The school district asked our Legion to provide a volunteer - one of our Legion members, preferably a Vietnam War Veteran, to be a speaker at that event. To make a long story short, Don Rottman, Jr. Vice Commander and a Vietnam Veteran, accepted that request. Don's speech demonstrated what it was like for a soldier – 18 yrs. of age – to be pinned down in the jungles of Vietnam. The event was video-streamed indoors, throughout the entire school district for all students to hear, while outdoors the event was attended by other Veterans and members of the community. Don's speech was so moving you could hear a pin drop. The audience was mesmerized by the visual representation they experienced through his own words. Don's speech is included in this newsletter so our members, who were not able to be there, could experience that feeling as well.

Jefferson Hospital hosted a Veteran's Day event that ran simultaneously with the high school event. Frank Caputo represented Post 712 for this ceremony. There were many dignitaries who spoke at this function. Frank did a great job fielding general questions and membership questions regarding Post 712. Hats off to both Don and Frank for taking time out of their schedules to volunteer their time to represent the Legion at such a high level.

Besides reading the newsletter, keep your eye out for information about Post 712 in the Tribune Review as well as the South Hills Messenger. We have many members of the Post

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CORPORATION
OFFICERS

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RUSS WILSON

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LES BRANCHEN
DON ROTTMAN

Web Master
THAD WEIDMANN

Newsletter Design
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

<p><i>NOTABLE DATES...</i> Dec. 3 - ALA Christmas Party Dec. 5 - Rider's Christmas Party Dec. 12 - Children's Christmas Party</p>	<p>Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve CLOSE at 5:00 Dec. 25 - Christmas CLOSED Dec. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE Party</p>	<p>PENS 1030 1 BOWLING  ◦RIDERS MEETING 7:00</p>
<p>Steelers 6 GAME 8:30 BEER SPECIALS & BUCKETS OF BEER PENS 8:00</p>	<p>7 HAPY HOUR 3:00 - 7:00 BUCKETS OF BEER ◦ POST MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>8 PAINTING PARTY W/DEBBIE (Snowman Scene)</p>
<p>Steelers 13 GAME 1:00 BEER SPECIALS & HALF - TIME FOOD FREE POOL 4 - 8</p>	<p>14  ◦ CORP. MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>15  BOWLING</p>
<p>Steelers 20 GAME 4:25 SERVE FOOD AT 3:30 BUCKETS OF BEER</p>	<p>21  Pens 7:00 POOL LEAGUE ◦ ALA MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>22  Happy Hour Mon.- Fri. 3:00 - 7:00 Buckets of Beer</p>
<p>Steelers 27 Game 8:30  Buckets of Beer Pens 8:00 FREE POOL 4:00 - 8:00 Every Sunday</p>	<p>28  3:00 - 7:00 Bucket Special</p>	<p>29  Happy Hour Mon.- Fri. 3:00 - 7:00 Buckets of Beer</p>

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December 2015



Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>BINGO 7:00 DIFFERENT FOOD SPECIAL EVERY WEEK</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>CORN HOLE 6:30</p> <p>ALA CHRISTMAS PARTY ◦ ENTERTAINMENT MEETING 6:00</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>WE HAVE TAKE OUT !</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL CRABCAKES</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>RIDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00</p> <p>PENS 4:00</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>FREE WIFI everyday</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL</p> <p>CHICKEN PARM. OVER ANGEL HAIR PASTA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>11:00 LEGION "KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY"</p> <p>2:00 ARMY vs NAVY GAME FOOD & DRAFT BEER \$10.00</p> <p>MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY RESERVATIONS W/LISA BETWEEN 12 & 2:00</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>  <p>BINGO 7:00</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>CORN HOLE - 7:00</p> <p>◦ SAL MEETING 7:00</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL</p> <p>MEATLOAF TAKE OUT AVAILABLE PENS 7:00</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>PENS 7:00</p> <p>FREE POOL 4:00 - 8:00</p> <p>FREE JUKE BOX 4:00 TILL CLOSE</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>  <p>NO BINGO</p> <p>FREE JUKE BOX</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>PARTY from 12-3 LEGION CLOSSES at 5:00</p> <p>Christmas Eve </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> <p>Legion CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>PENS GAME 8:00 SMALL PITCHERS \$3.00</p>  <p>FREE POOL 4:00 - 8:00</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>NO BINGO WE WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK PENS 7:00</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Pens 6:00</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S PARTY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Year's Eve 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Make Your Reservations December 12th - 12:00 - 2:00 (After that please see Lisa)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price is \$25.00 per Person Includes Buffet Dinner, at 8:30, 1 Free Drink per Person, Party Favors and Champagne Toast at Midnight! D.J. Ron 9:00 - 1:00</p>  	

Look for Game Nites in January ...

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ALA OFFICERS

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2nd Vice President
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Secretary
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Chaplain
BARBARA TERIHAY

Sgt-At-Arms
ROSE BREEN

Sgt-At-Arms
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sgt-At-Arms
PAT O'TOOLE

Auxiliary Corner,

Thanks to all those that contributed to the soup cook off. Everyone involved did a great job. Donna McCrumb and Vicky Golden kept things moving along. Leigh Anne and Rose tied for 1st place and Donna won 3rd. The bus trip to Nemaocolin was a big success. More losers than winners but we all had a good time thanks to Vicky's hard work on pulling it all together. Start planning for another one. The hospital tour starts on December 4th and all are invited to Southwestern to see how they live. Please see me if you want to go. We hope you signed up your children or grandchildren for the Christmas party on December 12th. Hope you had a great Thanksgiving and that everyone has a Happy Holiday season. Please join us at the post and hear about all the good things going on. Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all.

God Bless and Protect Our Troops

Mary Ann Marunich

ALA President

Eat, drink and cheer for the



at the Legion this season!

Sons of the Legion,

I would like to thank everyone that participated in feeding the five veteran families for Thanksgiving Dinner. This is a great way to show our appreciation towards the veterans that served our country.

We will be cooking for 2 football games in December.

December 13, which is a 1:00PM game (serving at half time)

Pork Chop dinner

and

December 20th which is a 4:25PM game (serving food at 3:30PM)

Chicken and Dumplings

• • • **Reminder to all members** • • •

pay your dues before the end of the year and save \$5.00.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gary C. Hartman

SAL Commander



SAL OFFICERS

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant
JAMES CHRISTOFEL

Finance Officer
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Adjutant
LLOYD RAY

Chaplain
MARK SMITH

American Legion Riders,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays Legion Family. This is a great time of the year (except for riding motorcycles of course). We are coming off of Halloween and Election Day and we celebrate Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving followed by Christmas and New Year's right around the corner. For those who attended the Halloween party and Veteran's Day Celebration at the Post it was a great time. The Post did a great job in staging these two events.

What did you do on Veteran's Day? Hopefully you took a moment to think about our Veteran's and current Military members and appreciate the sacrifices they have made on our behalf. If you are a Veteran ensure you take a few minutes out of your day from time to time to remember the good times ... And to also remember the not so good times as they are a big part of making us who we are.

Big Ups for Bill Allan, Tom Bodner, Ed Harmon, Kevin Jackson and Bill Weikel who rode bikes and participated in the Jefferson Hills – Pleasant Hills Communities Veterans Day Celebration at Thomas Jefferson High School. This is a great event attended by local community members and even featured a short parade on the grounds of the high school. The bikes were a big hit. Also, kudo's to Post 712's Don Rottman for his speech and presentation. Maybe Don should run of political office? I'd vote for him! For those of you who did not know, the high school Principal Mr. Chris Sefcheck is also a Veteran; he served during the Desert Storm era.

The Rider's Christmas Party is on December 5th at the Legion. As of the writing of this report the Christmas Party Committee is working diligently to ensure the party will be a great event. Special thanks to the Committee and Lead Susan Dillon, Bill Allan, Donna Allan, Ed Harmon, Chris Bodner, Tom Bodner, Beverly Weikel and Bill Weikel. You guys rock!

Follow the Riders new Facebook Group at: American Legion Riders Post 712 (Pleasant Hills)

Hooah, Top



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Commander's Call

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who are willing to write and edit articles for publication. It is important for us to make a vested effort to let our communities know of our current and future accomplishments. Russ and I are in contact with the mayors of Pleasant Hills and Jefferson Hills in order to be extremely visible regarding future community events.

Another area that is paramount for the future of our Post is membership. Our membership is our life-line. No members – no Legion! Potential members are not coming to us to join our Post, so it is all of our jobs to go to them. We are making customer service a top priority to improve our membership. The adjutant will make an initial call to all new members who enter the Post, and then the applicant's contact information will be directed to the appropriate presidents of the various organizations within our Post. We want all members to feel special and welcomed! Camaraderie should begin at the time the application is received.

I hope our members will take the time to look around, read our newsletters and local news outlets, and see the hard work that our members are accomplishing. There is no way we can be successful without them. We have a Post that is the envy of numerous Posts. We have the people to make it work. Our "can do" attitude will see us through the challenges we face! I cannot express how proud I am of our achievements over these past few months that is directly a result of everyone's support.

I plan to have some very exciting news for you at the beginning of next year!

I have said it before and I will continue to say that I am extremely proud to be your Commander.

As always we continue to support our troops.

Richard J. Wojnar

Check us out . . .
see what's new every day!
Web site: alpost712pa.org
Facebook:
Americanlegion.
Postsevenonetwo

FYI . . .

There is a very informative book for Veterans and their families called **Check for Vets**. It is a guide book to help Veterans and their families receive VA pensions for long term care and many other concerns. **Check for Vets** Contains samples of all the forms you need and tips for filing a claim for aid and / or housebound pensions. **Check for Vets** has all the necessary forms to receive your medals or for love ones. It is simple to download any form you need (www.CheckForVets.com). Or locate discharge records. It also helps prevent delays in receiving benefits. There is a copy in the Legion office for reference or you may purchase one from: Jourda Publishing.

I have used it many times. It has a wealth of information. Don Rottman

**Don't Forget to Make
Your New Year's Eve
Reservations!**

Membership Reminder

Regular Legion

**2016 Membership is considered late
if not paid on or before 12-31-15**

- \$25 if paid on or before 12-31-15
- \$30 if paid on or after 1-1-16

Key Cards

- \$5 if paid on or before 12-31-15
- \$6 if paid on or after 1-1-16

Post 712 Adjutant



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The Friends of the Fisher House, Inc. Recognize the Post 712 American Legion Riders

On November 3, the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House, Inc. presented a Letter of Appreciation to the Legion Riders of Post 712 in Pleasant Hills, PA for their generous donation. The Riders held a fundraising event that generated \$5000 to benefit the Pittsburgh Fisher House. The primary focus of the Riders is to support veterans and their families from their local community. The Riders' donation will be used to purchase food, personal care items or other items needed to provide support and comfort for the families staying at the Pittsburgh Fisher House.

The mission of the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House is to create a "home away from home" where family members or caregivers of veterans can stay free of charge, as long as necessary, while their veteran or service member receives care at the VA Hospital on University Drive in Oakland, PA. James Bruder, Chairman of the Board of the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House and a U. S. Navy Veteran himself stated, "I simply can't say enough about the professionalism of the Post 712 Riders and I certainly cannot praise the Riders enough for their generous donation." Mr. Bruder also stated, "Fisher House gives veterans' families an opportunity to be close to their veteran while he or she is in the VA hospital for treatment, without any worries about the financial hardship and disruption of family life that otherwise would accompany a hospital stay far from their home cities."

The Riders support the Pittsburgh Fisher House primarily for two reasons: For every dollar that is donated, \$0.92 goes directly to support veterans and their families; and Charity Watch, an independent group that monitors and evaluates national charities, has awarded the Pittsburgh Fisher House an A+ rating. The Riders would like to recognize the commitment and dedication of their police departments who volunteer their time and effort to ensure the safety of all Riders: Pleasant Hills Police Department,

Jefferson Hills Police Department, Baldwin Borough Police Department, Connellsville Police Department, Elizabeth Police Department, and the Fayette County Sheriff's Department. These men and women could never receive enough praise for their daily heroic duties.

The ages of the Post 712 Riders scale from the Korean War Era to the Afghanistan Conflict. Men and women from the Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion are eligible to become Legion Riders. The Riders are currently conducting a membership drive. If you are committed to the ideals that has made America great, and are seeking a way to give back to your community by volunteering to aid fellow veterans in need, by performing acts of charity, by enjoying the camaraderie of riding motorcycles with other members, and by understanding the duty to continue to serve communities and our Nation, then the Riders may be the right group for you. John Dillon is the President of the Legion Riders. For more information about the Legion Riders, call 412-606-8812.



New Year's Eve 2015

*Make Your Reservations
December 12th - 12:00 - 2:00
(After that please see Lisa)*

Price is \$25.00 per Person

Includes Buffet Dinner
At 8:30, 1 Free Drink per
Person, Party Favors and
Champagne Toast at Midnight!

D.J. Ron 9:00 - 1:00

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Speech that Don Rottman gave at

Thomas Jefferson High School on Veterans Day . . .

Good Morning, My name is Don Rottman. I am the Junior Vice Commander of the Pleasant Hills American Legion Post 712.

The Vietnam War was a long costly conflict that pitted the Communist regime of North Vietnam, supported by the Chinese. Its southern allies known as the Viet Cong fought against South Vietnam and its principal Ally the United States. It was the first televised war that showed the reality of war. As it became increasing unpopular at home, the United States ended with the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973 and the collapse of South Vietnam. The unification of Vietnam fell under Communist control two years later. More than 3 million people died including 58,000 Americans were killed in the war. We never lost a battle but could not win the war.

Now I want to paint a picture of how it was for me . . . Back then there was a draft system. Males had to register when they turned 18 years old. My classification was 1-A. I did not apply myself in high school because I had no interest in going to college. I enjoyed working with my hands as a welder and was interested in racing cars.

I graduated in June of 1964 and began working in the mill in August. I was drafted in December of 1965. I left Pittsburgh two weeks before Christmas and was shipped to Fort Lewis, Washington assigned to the 4th Infantry Division.

We started with basic training, which included physical training, discipline, harassment and working as unit. After basic training, we move on to Advanced Infantry Training. You were assigned your military duty, a rifleman, a machine gunner, assistant gunner etc. I was selected as radio man. My duties were to work with the platoon sergeant, coordinate the fire teams in an attack and call in choppers to extract the wounded and dead. I had to direct fire support from the choppers and bring in the reinforcements.

My basic combat uniform was an full automatic M-16, 500 hundred rounds ammunition, 2 grenades, 5 smoke grenades to mark positions for choppers and a 25 pound radio plus 2 extra batteries at 5lbs each and a whip antenna. Besides all that we carried 4 canteens of water (1 gal), a gas mask, bayonet, and entrenching tool, plus C-rations enough for 3 days. C-rations were cans that contained food, fruit chocolate bar matches and cigarettes. Most of these cans were dated 1943 and 1944.

We never carried tents or any kind of sheltered, you just dealt with the elements. My outfit was on the Cambodian border in dense jungle. It was so thick that sometimes the sun could not get through. So you were damp and wet all the time. The average temperature was close to 100 degrees and the humidity was just as high. So we never wore any kind of flak jackets.

Our mission was to stop the North Vietnam from bringing supplies and troops to the region. We ran "Search and Destroy" missions daily, some lasted 3 weeks, so there were no showers or change of clothes. The only good thing was we all smelled the same! We were re supplied with, food water and ammo by chopper.

The night ambushes scared me the most. You could pick any area that you thought the enemy would pass through and wait. When the enemy was in your kill zone you would let the first couple go through. Then open up with everything you had then move to the rear and assemble and get out of the area because you didn't know how many were behind them. The only time the North Vietnamese would attack you is when they thought they had the upper hand, so you rely on your training and your brother to get you out of a bad situation.

I have no regrets about my time in the service other than the loss of some very good friends. It is amazing how close you get to each other in two years "Brothers in Arms". Most of us still keep in touch with each other. In Vietnam we did not understand the politics of war, we fought for each other.

The only negative reaction I have is the way some veterans were treated when we came home. We were not accepted as Veterans. We were called Baby Killers, Drug addicts and other derogatory remarks. We were told to stay in groups in airports and train stations. And not wear your uniform in certain areas.

This is why many Vietnam Veterans work with are current Veterans and service organizations. To help them adjust to civilian life and give them the welcome home they deserve.

On this Veterans Day make a pledge to yourself to thank a Vet for his or her service. This includes your grandfather, dad or mom and men and women in uniform. You will not believe how good it will make them feel.

I received several medals but the one I'm most proud of is my Combat Infantry Badge which means I was in combat for at least 30 days. My unit also received a Presidential Citation. My dad was surprised I got a Good Conduct Medal!

Thank You for your time and God Bless America

TAPS



With Honor and Gratitude We Remember . . .

James F. Gallagher Jr.
(2014)

Daryl A. Celestine
(10/2015)

Fred Saracco (11/2015)

May you Rest in Peace my Friend.